

The Southern Ute Drum

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Solix: Fueling A Better World



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

A vast horizon frames the recently completed Algae Biofuels Pilot Plant in Coyote Gulch on Wednesday, July 29, 2009, during the dedication ceremonies. This plant marks a milestone in the development of alternative energy sources, and is a joint venture between Southern Ute Alternative Energy and Solix Biofuels. Pictured below, Growth Fund Executive Director, Bruce Valdez, and President of Southern Ute Alternative Energy, Rebecca Kauffman, wrap a Pendelton blanket around Shane Seibel in appreciation for his blessing of the grounds during the dedication of the new biofuels facility in Coyote Gulch.

by Jeremy Wade Shockley
Southern Ute Drum

Southern Ute Alternative Energy, in partnership with Solix Biofuels, successfully dedicated the new Coyote Gulch Biofuels Pilot Plant on Wednesday, July 29, 2009. Representatives from Southern Ute Alternative Energy, Solix, La Plata County and Southern Ute Tribal Council were present during the opening ceremonies. Matthew J. Box, Southern Ute Tribal Chairman and Bear Dance Chief, gave a prayer, followed by a blessing of the grounds given by tribal member Shane Seibel.

Solix Biofuels, whose motto is Fueling a Better World, is a Colorado State University startup company based out of Fort Collins, Colorado. Focusing on alternative energy production technology, Solix is making possible the large-scale commercialization of microalgae-based fuels and co-products. The Coyote Gulch Biofuels Plant is the first major step in creating a facility for full-scale production and has been achieved through Solix's partnership with Southern Ute Alternative Energy.

Councilwoman Marjorie Borst said, "As we move into a new era, we must embrace this as a move forward for all Coloradoans." Other council members voiced their own hopes and enthusiasm for future renewable energy ventures, and the viability of the biofuels plant. Councilwoman Ramona Eagle applauded this as a first step towards many ventures into alternative energy for the Tribe." The Creator has blessed this tribe and the future generations." Councilman Steve Herrera finished by noting, "We must also acknowledge our elders and the wisdom we have gained from them," in regards to many of the Tribe's successes.

Chairman Box read a letter from Colorado Governor Bill Ritter stating: "Congratulations to Solix and the Southern Utes for this innovative addition to Colorado's New Energy Economy. This facil-



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

ity illustrates why Colorado is leading the nation in the manufacturing, production, and research of energy efficient and renewable energy, " Gov. Ritter said. "It's another example of how all of Colorado benefits when we work together-industry, government, universities and residents."

In speaking with Bob Zahradnik, Growth Fund Operating Director, he said the idea of pursuing alternative energy was favored by Tribal Council from the beginning. Zahradnik and Southern Ute Alternative Energy President Rebecca Kauffman sought out viable ideas and partnerships for investment. The Colorado based company, Solix Biofuels, fit the bill.

Solix meets the three primary criteria for a candidate suitable to partner with Southern Ute Alternative Energy; their process is: technically sound, environmentally friendly, and economically feasible. The most important of these criteria being that the idea and process of algae to energy is technically sound, and was lab tested under the supervision of Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Bryan Willson of Colorado State University, also the Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of Solix. Only after meeting stringent criteria was the Coyote Gulch Biofuels Pilot Plant set in motion.

The Coyote Gulch Pilot Plant site, which is located on the Southeast corner of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation, is adja-

cent to an already existing natural gas processing plant. The symbiotic relationship between these two production plants is essential to the refining process of algae to fuel. A bi-product of natural gas production is Carbon Dioxide (CO2), which is used to help aid in the growing process of the algae used to produce biofuels.

Algae based biofuels production began on July 16, 2009, following the inoculation of the facility with microalgae.

Three large water tanks are spread out across the plant site, one of which is already operational and showing signs of algae growth, just under the water's surface. A large water tower stands above the facility, with the Solix logo clearly visible. Views of an open horizon spread out to the south and east.

Plant manager Dave Diss was on hand at the dedication to explain the technical process to those seeking a better understanding of the operation. Following opening ceremonies, Growth Fund employees and Solix staff mingled with public officials and Tribal Council who had come to Coyote Gulch in order to view the plant for the first time and discuss the opportunities ahead.

The technology being set in motion here on Tribal Lands is not only groundbreaking, but also sustainable. While many forms of Biofuels are possible, many of them use food products

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The Native American Heritage Train; The Southern Ute Legacy



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Young dancers enter the arena in single file after the Historic Durango Silverton Train reached its destination at Cascade, with young Shyden Pinnecoose in the front, these dancers participated in a mini powwow for a group of visiting tourists as part of the First Annual Heritage Train on Saturday, August 1, 2009.

Barbara Bustillos Cogswell
Sales (Group Tours) Cultural Coordinator
Sky Ute Casino Resort

On Saturday, August 1st, 2009, the "The Native American Heritage Train; The Southern Ute Legacy," held its inaugural trip as the first special event to be orchestrated between Sky Ute Casino Resort and the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. Over 30 Heritage dancers, drummers, and Elder story-tellers claimed the train their own and rode with hundreds of tourists, locals and residents from the town of Ignacio.

For myself, this event was emotional due to the integration of Native American Mothers, Fathers, Fort Lewis students and children riding the train; some for the first time. It was an honor to be riding the 3rd most popular privatized train in the world and the number 1 in the United States (polled by the Society of American Travel Writers).

Held at the downtown Durango train depot, The Rolling Thunder Boys, a Southern Ute Drum Group, began the ceremony as

the Dancers held Grand Entry and Southern Ute Tribal Elder Eddie Box Jr. prepared for the blessing of the train station. Out of respect, the depot guests were asked not to take pictures during this Native ceremonial blessing. The words that Mr. Box shared flowed thru the air like a song... and the bustling train depot fell silent as everyone stopped to hear the words of healing and compassion. After the blessing, the dancers and parents, guests and guardians boarded their individual train compartments.

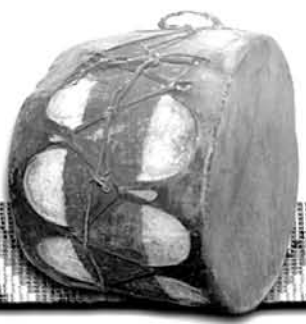
Once onboard the train, I thanked the dancers and stated, "Today, this is your train! This train ride is dedicated to the So. Ute Legacy and you can walk proudly from car to car to meet the people, introduce yourself, tell them about your Regalia, or you can pick any seat and look at the beautiful mountain side...this is your day!" Some of the children began to move from car to car, jump from seat to seat and the parents followed. Many of the dancers were invited by SU Elder Dixie Naranjo, to discuss the importance of Regalia.

Prior to the event, and after

months of planning, Mikki Roubideaux, CFO and Heritage Dance Coordinator, and Ms. Andrea Seid, Director of Marketing for the D&SNGRR, met at the Ignacio KSUT Radio studios, interviewed by Lorena Richards. Ms Richards began, "Where did this idea come from?" Seid shared, "It came from the idea of wanting to reach out and strengthen our relationship between the railroad and the community and have people experience and learn more about Southern Ute Culture."

Mikki Roubideaux shared, "We have two Elders that will be speaking about the area, Mr. Byron Frost and Mr. Eddie Box Jr., and the Casino designed a special brochure to showcase important historical points of So. Ute history." Ms Seid, followed, "We dedicated the "Prospector Car" for the Elder Storytellers, which is a table and chair type seating area... so they will ride with the passengers. The two-hour ride to Cascade will stop for lunch and to enjoy a 45-minute presentation by the Heritage

Heritage Train page 12



Tri Ute Language Conference Set To Coincide With Tribal Fair

At their meeting of August 11, 2009, the Southern Ute Tribal Council approved a Tri-Ute Language Conference to be held on Wednesday, September 9, and Thursday, September 10, 2009 at the Sky Ute Conference Center. Tribal Elders and Ute Language speakers from the Northern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute and the Southern Ute Tribes, will meet to

discuss the current language development and accomplishments that each of the Ute Tribes have made to maintain the Ute language among their young people, and Tribal members.

An agenda for the meeting is being developed and will be available for viewing before the meeting.

The Ute language is a precious tribal and cultural resource which

will disappear within the next generation if protective steps and sharing of information is not accomplished.

For additional information regarding the meeting or to express your concerns about the current state of the Ute language in general, please call Sage Remington at (970) 769-3638, or contact the Southern Ute Tribal Council office at (970) 563-0100.

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such as corn, or compete with the resources necessary to produce food products. The Algae to Energy process does not directly effect the world's food supply, making it much more sustainable on a global scale. The benefits of harvesting algae for fuel are significant: algae quickly reproduces, algae does not compete with the global food supply, and

algae's symbiotic relationship with natural gas sites, prevalent through out the world, reduces carbon dioxide emissions. The overall benefits will slow climate change (global warming), while lessening our dependence on conventional fossil fuels.

Doug Henston, Chief Executive Officer of Solix, said "With the Biofuels Pilot Plant,

we are looking forward to building a future together with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. What we are creating is a partnership with a larger global impact, as we pioneer this technology."

A lunch banquet was provided at the Sky Ute Casino following the dedication. Closing remarks were made along with a presentation of gifts.

Bob Piccoli's Retirement Party

August 21, 2009 • 4pm - 7pm
Sky Ute Casino Resort's Event Center, Room A, Ignacio, Colorado

General Election Information

Statement of Intention Deadline: September 7, 2009

If you are interested in running, for a Tribal Council seat in the upcoming General Election, November 6, 2009; the deadline for filing a "Statement of Intention" is September 7, 2009. September 7, 2009 is a Holiday, so the Election Board will set up their office in the lobby of the Southern Ute Justice Center, between the hours of 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

General Election: November 6, 2009, 7AM-7PM

Constitution, Article IV, Section 1: There shall be annual elections held on the first Friday in November.

If you have any questions, please call the Southern Ute Election Board at (970) 563-0100 ext. 2303 or ext. 2305.

Trekkers Tour Colorado



photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Trekkers; a mentoring program from the State of Maine, paid a visit to Southern Ute Indian Tribal Campus on Thursday, August, 6, 2009. Chief Judge Elaine Newton, Executive Officer Andrew Frost and Records Retention Manager Larry Tucker each spoke with the students about Tribal Law and Ute Traditions. The students had an opportunity to meet with Tribal Council, where Chairman Matthew J. Box gave an explanation of Tribal lands. The tour finished up with a traditional dance performance held at the Sun Ute Recreation Facility. To find out more about the Trekkers Program visit their website online at www.trekkersonline.com.

Express Your Opinions

Tri Ute Thanks

I would like to put a thank you into the drum for the Tri-Ute Games. I would like it to read as follows:

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the 2009 Tri-Ute Games a success.

I would like to give a special thanks to the following people who went above and beyond!

Kip Koso, SunUte Director
All SunUte Staff especially the Recreation Department; Damon White Thunder, Ian Twiss, Angelo Valdez, and Jenn Sirios
Southern Ute Coaches: Chris Valdez, Precious Collins, Ian Twiss, Brianna Simbeck, and Isiah Valdez.

Coordinators/Coaches for swimming and Archery: Lin Eskridge and Muz Pinnecoose

Volunteers for Swimming: Robin Duffy Wirth, Lisa Allen, Zerhrena Richards

Feast Hall: Lisa Williams, Natalie Richards, Elania Romero, Sherrie Haynes

Information/Check in Table: Darrell Clah, Thomas Romero

Facility Operations: Kristi Garnanez, Matt Weaver, Jacob Posey

Hospitality Room: Billy Jack, Jill Gaffney

Parking: Don Folsom
General: Megan Posey, Brad Kujath, Ty Conrad, Austin Thorne, Jesonna Ollis, Susie Banwart

The Sky Ute Casino and Resort especially Ben Fernandez, Heidi Doscher, Shannon Brown, Connie McCall, and the Security Crew

The Southern Ute Police Department especially Lt. Bill Lucero

The Southern Ute Drum especially Robert Ortiz and Jeremy Shockley

The Southern Ute Museum especially LeAnn Wilson and Marian Gilmore

The Southern Ute Academy especially Carol Baker-Olguin and Linda Daniels for help with the Cafeteria

The Ignacio School District especially Juvie Jones for use of the High School Gym

Our Master of Ceremonies Eddie Box

Our Concessionaire Estelle Monte-Jimenez

Norm Lansing for donation of display equipment

Linda Grove d'Wolf for coordinating Hand Games

Dixie Naranjo for coordinating with her sister Darleen Frost and putting together a wonderful presentation of Shinney including their personal equipment.

Grounds Maintenance for doing an amazing job of making the surrounding facilities beautiful.

Janet Mosher, Recreation Manager

SUCAP Duck Race Thanks

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Annual SUCAP Duck Race during San Ignacio Fiesta. Our Early Head Start program will have \$2473 thanks to your generosity!!! To SUCAP Board members who bought and sold tickets, thanks so much! Thanks to The Style Shop in Ignacio for selling tickets for us too!

Thank you to all of our departments for their sales (Head Start, Early Head Start, Peaceful Spirit, The Training Advantage), to Lydia Chavez, for hitting the pavement to sell as many tickets as she could and for braving the rocky river to release the ducks!

Thank you again to Gina Schulz for aggressively pursuing ticket sales and to Marc Katz of Mercury Payment Systems, for his matching donation of \$275.00. To the Southern Ute Indian Tribe for allowing SUCAP to hold the Duck Race in their waters, and to Mr. White from the DOW for use of the fish nets.

On the day of the race - thank you so much to Mandy Velasquez, Wildcats Caitlin Garcia, Chasity Bean, Shelsey Lagerstrom, Destaney Reynolds, and Skyla Ruybal, also, Arianna Weaver, Mariah Thompson, Eileen Wasserbach, Julie Goodman, Jennifer Rugland-Claps, Annalise Mahnken, and anyone else I may have forgotten who braved the warm river water to help me determine which ducks won and then retrieve all the ducks from the water.

Thank you to everyone for making this another successful year. Hope to see you all again next year, same time!!!

Duck Race winners were:

1st Place - Louann Liggett-Blythe, Ignacio, CO, \$400 Cash

2nd Place - Baird Kleinsmith, Mercury Payment Systems, Durango, \$300 Cash

3rd Place - Chris Claps, Oxford, \$200 Cash

4th Place - Melissa Trevino, Mercury Payment Systems, Denver, \$100 Cash!

Fiesta Thank You!

San Ignacio Fiesta in Ignacio would like to thank everyone who came out and celebrated our annual community celebration. All events were very well attended and we hope that everyone enjoyed themselves. To all of the creative and colorful entries that made our parade so wonderful - Great Job! A special thank you to the following merchants who contributed to the Fiesta parade making cash prizes possible: Ignacio Auto, Pinon Liquor, Julies El Amigo, El Dorado, Maralex Resources, and Custom Cuts.

We would like to also thank St. Ignatius Parishioners, The Town of Ignacio Employees, Southern Ute Color Guard, Boy Scouts/Venture Crew 718, Los Colores de Ignacio Dancers, Ignacio Schools, Los Pinos Knights of Columbus, Sky Ute Casino, Parade Judges, SUCAP, Telekave, Ritmo, Fr. Douglas Hunt, St. Mary's Choir, Dixie Melton, Naoma Jones, Liva Pacheco, Dolores Atencio, Debbie Valencia, Yolanda Duran, Balty Quintana, Fred Gonzales, Leona Red, Art & Barbara Sanchez, Renee Cuthair, Sylvia Sanchez, Gary & Betty Wiley, Arlene Rea, Jim & Kathleen Threadgill, Joe Silva & Family, Don Silva, Barbara Valdez & Family, Mercedes Boughan, Marie Zeller, Marcelino & Josie Archuleta, Sage Medicine Blanket, Betty Jo Quintana, St. Peters Carmelitas, St. Ignatius Carmelitas, Stan Cox, Gene & Sherri Gurule, Mom's Hidden Closet and the many others that pitched in and helped when we needed it.

St. Ignatius Catholic Church is proud to have hosted another wonderful community event and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

San Ignacio Fiesta Committee

EDITORS NOTE: ALL LETTERS PUBLISHED IN THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM ARE PUBLISHED AS THEY ARE SUBMITTED AND DO NOT REFLECT THE OPINION OF THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM OR THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE.

The Southern Ute Drum accepts and encourages letters from its readers on any subject or issue whatsoever. We ask that letters submitted for publication be 500 words or less, and be signed by the writer. Letters deemed to be libelous or tasteless will not be published. Letters need to be signed and submitted to Robert L. Ortiz, Media Manager for the Southern Ute Drum (970) 563-0100, Ext. 2253 or send an email to Robert at: rortiz@southern-ute.nsn.us during normal business hours.

"THE LAW AND YOU" FREE LEGAL CLINICS

The legal system is complicated and it's difficult to know where to go to find answers. Lawyers will be available at each clinic to answer your questions on family law matters, bankruptcy, employment discrimination law, consumer law, and general legal matters.

CLINIC # 1: TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2009, 4:15 pm - 7:00 pm

CLINIC # 2: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2009, 10:30 am - 11:30 am

SKY UTE CASINO EVENT CENTER

The Law and You Free Legal Clinics are sponsored by Colorado Legal Services and Denver Metro Volunteer Lawyers in conjunction with the Four Corners E-Race Civil Rights Conference.

Next Drum
Aug 28
DEADLINES

Display/Classified
Ads & Jobs
Aug 17

Stories & News,
Announcements
Wishes/B-Days!
Aug 21

THE SOUTHERN UTE DRUM

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